

What is claimed is:

1 1. An interactive computer method for monitoring a project, the
2 method comprising the steps of:
3 defining authorized individuals who have access to an interactive computer
4 system providing data interchange;
5 opening a collaboration center for authorized individuals;
6 allowing access to the collaboration center by the authorized individual;
7 defining one of a collaboration purpose and deadline; and
8 accepting input information from authorized individuals relating to the
9 collaboration.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 allowing all authorized individuals to perform one of, review, submit,
3 author, and change data and to interact with other authorized individuals in the
4 collaboration center.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
2 notifying all authorized individuals of a change in at least one of the
3 collaboration center purpose, deadline, plan, and input.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
2 accepting votes of authorized individuals for an element of the
3 collaboration.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
2 maintaining and displaying the status of each collaboration.

1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 providing the collaboration center with the capability of receiving
3 documents attached to user responses.

1 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

1003999-10404

2 establishing a plan to meet the purpose.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
2 establishing a plurality of information modules to control at least one of
3 project planning, establishing and tracking project tasks, allowing access to documents and
4 information in any module, providing issue resolution, reviewing project progress,
5 tracking project finances, scheduling and attending meetings, requesting information,
6 reporting project data, controlling changes to prospect documents and archiving project
7 data.

1 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of:
2 using electronic mail interaction between authorized individuals and the
3 information modules.

1 10. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of:
2 linking each of the information modules for data interchange between each
3 module.

1 11. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of allowing access to
2 documents and information in any module comprises the step of:
3 assigning status states to each of the documents.

1 12. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of requesting information
2 further comprises the step of:
3 specifying the name of request recipients for defined organization
4 categories.

1 13. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of requesting information
2 further comprises the steps of:
3 issuing a request for information;
4 designating a designated recipient for the request for information;
5 providing the designated recipient with the capability of one of replying
6 directly to the request for information, delegating the request for information to a

1003999-102401

7 designated delegate with the capability for the designated delegate to respond directly to
 8 the request for information; and
 9 providing the designated recipient with the capability of delegating the
 10 request for information to a designated delegate and solely receiving a reply from the
 11 designated delegate.

1 14. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of reviewing project
 2 progress further comprises the steps of:
 3 issuing a request for project data review;
 4 designating a plurality of designated recipients for the review request; and
 5 providing for a reply from the plurality of designated review requests by
 6 one of in parallel from each designated review recipient and in series from all of the
 7 designated recipients.

1 15. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
 2 allowing each authorized individual to establish a personal preference for
 3 receiving notifications of at least one of input and changes in one of project documents,
 4 project tasks, project issues, change requirements, review requests, finance changes,
 5 request for information, open collaborations, schedule meetings, and project plans.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the step of selecting how to
 2 receive notifications comprises the step of:
 3 electing one of receiving notifications by electronic mail, with or without
 4 attached documents, and the form of the electronic mail.

1 17. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of:
 2 sending the notifications to each authorized individual by electronic mail.

1 18. An interactive computer method for monitoring a project, the
 2 method comprising the steps of:
 3 establishing a plurality of information modules to control at least one of
 4 project planning, establishing and tracking project tasks, allowing access to documents and
 5 information in any module, providing issue resolution, reviewing project progress,

1003999-10401

6 tracking project finances, scheduling and attending meetings, requesting information,
7 reporting project data, controlling changes to prospect documents, establishing a
8 collaboration center for planning and resolving a collaboration purposes, and archiving
9 project data.

1 19. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
2 using electronic mail interaction between authorized individuals and the
3 information modules.

1 20. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
2 allowing each authorized individual to establish a personal preference for
3 receiving notifications of at least one of input and changes in one of project documents,
4 project tasks, project issues, change requirements, review requests, finance changes,
5 request for information, open collaborations, schedule meetings, and project plans.

1 21. The method of claim 20 wherein the step of selecting how to
2 receive notifications comprises the step of:
3 electing one of receiving notifications by electronic mail, with or without
4 attached documents, and the form of the electronic mail.

1 22. The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of:
2 sending the notifications to each authorized individual by electronic mail.

1 23. The method of claim 18 further comprising the steps of:
2 allowing all authorized individuals to perform one of review, submit,
3 author, and change data and to interact with other authorized individuals in the
4 collaboration center.

1 24. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
2 notifying all authorized individuals of a change in at least one of the
3 collaboration center purpose, deadline, plan, and input.

1 25. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:

1003999-102401

2 accepting votes of authorized individuals to one of the purposes and the
3 plan of the collaboration.

1 26. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
2 maintaining and displaying the status of each collaboration.

1 27. The method of claim 18 further comprising the steps of:
2 providing the collaboration center with the capability of receiving
3 documents attached to user responses.

1 28. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
2 linking each of the information modules for data interchange between each
3 module.

1 29. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
2 allowing access to documents and information in any module; and
3 assigning status states to each of the documents.

1 30. The method of claim 18 wherein the step of requesting information
2 further comprises the step of:
3 specifying the name of request recipients for defined organization
4 categories.

1 31. The method of claim 18 wherein the step of requesting information
2 further comprises the steps of:
3 issuing a request for information;
4 designating a designated recipient for the request for information;
5 providing the designated recipient with the capability of one of replying
6 directly to the request for information, delegating the request for information to a
7 designated delegate with the capability for the designated delegate to respond directly to
8 the request for information; and

10039999-102401

9 providing the designated recipient with the capability of delegating the
10 request for information to a designated delegate and solely receiving a reply from the
11 designated delegate.

1 32. The claim 18 wherein the step of reviewing project progress further
2 comprises the steps of:
3 issuing a request for project data review;
4 designating a plurality of designated recipients for the review request; and
5 providing for a reply from the plurality of designated review requests by
6 one of in parallel from each designated review recipient and in series from all of the
7 designated recipients.

1 33. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of:
2 allowing each authorized individual to establish a personal
3 preference for receiving notifications of at least one of input and changes in one of project
4 documents, project tasks, project issues, change requirements, review requests, finance
5 changes, request for information, open collaborations, schedule meetings, and project
plans.

1 34. The method of claim 19 further comprising the steps of:
2 providing an electronic mail response capability for at least certain of the
3 requests and notifications issued in any of the information modules allowing an authorized
4 user to respond to the request and notification by direct electronic mail reply; and
5 the information modules documenting the reply and any documents
6 attached to the reply in the appropriate information module.

1 35. The method of claim 34 further comprising the step of:
2 allowing a user to attach documents to a request and notification.

1 36. An interactive computer apparatus for monitoring the progress of
2 a project, the apparatus comprising:
3 a computer network with operating software allowing access to project data
4 by authorized individuals using the computer network;

- 5 means for defining authorized individuals who are authorized to access the
 6 project on the network;
 7 means for creating a collaboration center;
 8 means for allowing access to the collaboration center by authorized
 9 individuals;
 10 means for defining one of a collaboration purpose and deadline;
 11 means for establishing a plan to meet the collaboration purpose; and
 12 means for accepting inputs from authorized users to one of the
 13 collaboration purpose, plan and deadline, over the computer network.

1 37. The computer apparatus of claim 36 further comprising:
 2 the operating software is contained in a central processor accessible by each
 3 of a plurality of individual nodes.

1 38. The computer apparatus of claim 37 wherein each of the nodes
 2 communicates with the central processor via a computer network.

1 39. The computer apparatus of claim 37 wherein the computer network
 2 uses Internet communication protocol for data communication between the nodes and the
 3 central processor.

1 40. An interactive computer apparatus for monitoring the progress of
 2 a project, the apparatus comprising:
 3 a computer network with operating software allowing access to project data
 4 by authorized individuals using the computer network;
 5 means for defining authorized individuals who are authorized to access the
 6 project on the network;
 7 means for planning the project;
 8 means for establishing and tracking project tasks;
 9 means for allowing access to project documents and information;
 10 means for providing issue resolutions;
 11 means for reviewing project progress;
 12 means for tracking project finances;

- 13 means for scheduling and attending meetings between authorized
14 individuals;
15 means for requesting information;
16 means for reporting project data;
17 means for controlling changes to project documents and information; and
18 means for archiving project data.

1003999-10401
10401-666601